

President C. Kurt Dewhurst called the spring meeting of the Executive Board to order at 9:10 am on Friday, April 16, 2010, in Room 320 of the Mershon Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, Ohio. Members present: Ray Cashman, Tim Evans, Jason Baird Jackson, Past President Elaine Lawless, Carl Lindahl, Marsha MacDowell, Riki Saltzman, Amy Shuman, Amy Skillman, and Marilyn White. Members absent: Bill Westerman. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd and Associate Director Lorraine Cashman were also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on minidisk.

Kurt Dewhurst welcome all Board members to the meeting, thanked Tim Lloyd and Lorraine Cashman for their work on meeting preparations, and thanked Elaine Lawless for her leadership during her two years as president. He also noted that Lawless would be a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina and Duke University in 2011, and that Amy Shuman would be a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley in fall 2010.

He also commented on the importance of the present strategic moment for AFS, citing the Society's agility and resourceful capacities, and noting the Society's growing list of national and international partnerships.

Tim Lloyd then asked the Board for discussion and approval for the minutes of the Board's October 2009 meeting, a draft of which had been distributed to the Board before the meeting. **Amy Shuman moved that the minutes of the Board's October 2009 meeting be approved as presented. Amy Skillman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Tim Lloyd then presented the auditor's report on the Society's FY 2009 finances and financial recordkeeping by the Society. **Marsha MacDowell moved that the Board accept the auditor's report on the Society FY 2009 finances and financial recordkeeping. Riki Saltzman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Tim Lloyd then made the Executive Director's report, first noting the state of Society finances as of the middle of the present fiscal year.

Bill Westerman entered the meeting at this point.

He then described a proposal, which had been distributed to the Board before the meeting, for the creation of an AFS Sustainers' Fund as a vehicle for members' annual contributions to the Society. **Amy Skillman moved that the**

**Board accept the proposal to create an AFS Sustainers' Fund. Carl Lindahl seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Lloyd then discussed progress on the Society's various special projects, with particular focus on the Civil Rights Oral History Survey, for which the Society had recently received a seven-month contract from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

He then reported on the work of the Society's current working group on folklore and health policy: their article for a health policy journal will be completed by the end of this year. He also described a proposed request for proposals for new folklore and public policy working groups that had been distributed to the Board before the meeting. **Amy Shuman moved that the Board approve the request for proposals for new folklore and public policy working groups. Bill Westerman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The meeting paused briefly from 10:42 to 10:55.

Kurt Dewhurst then gave a brief update on the status of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, and of the Society's efforts to advocate for the value of our field to both Endowments.

Tim Lloyd then concluded his executive director's report with a discussion of recent developments at the *Journal of American Folklore*, the redesign of the Society's web site, and AFS international activities in China and Mexico.

AFS consultant Betsy Peterson of Austin, Texas, then entered the meeting to discuss two matters: 1) her work to study ways that the Society might assume responsibility for some of the functions of The Fund for Folk Culture, which has recently suspended its operations, and 2) the progress thus far of the America Works initiative, which she is coordinating and in which the Society is a partner.

In discussing the Fund for Folk Culture project, Peterson noted that philanthropic support for the arts and culture is in rapid decline. This has had an impact on the Fund over the last few years, and will be a major factor affecting the Society's capability to take over some of the Fund's responsibilities.

Are there activities that the Society and Fund might do as a collective that each could not or cannot do separately? If the FFC funding function goes away, and its think-tank gatherings and publications work remains, how do we re-shape the FFC brand?

Peterson will continue to work with people and organizations in the field over the next eight months, and will submit her final report and recommendations at the end of the calendar year.

She then described the America Works project—a partnership of the American Folklife Center, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, AFS, and the National Council for the Traditional Arts to work with museums and libraries nationwide to document recent and present-day occupations and occupational tradition, and to help develop workplace and career-path skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Board agreed that the Society should be front and center in the presentation of the project to indicate its role in creating and shaping it. A major role for AFS, though, will create capacity-building challenges; what are the necessary human and financial resources?

The Board paused for lunch at 12:45, and the meeting resumed at 1:36.

Carl Lindahl, the Board's representative on the Board-AFS Fellows committee to select the recipient of the 2010 AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award, presented the committee's recommendation that both Henry Glassie, *emeritus* of Indiana University, and Michael Owen Jones, *emeritus* of UCLA, receive this year's award. Both are outstanding scholars of the highest rank, and it would not be appropriate to give the award to only one of them. **Carl Lindahl moved that the Board approve the committee's recommendation that both Henry Glassie and Michael Owen Jones receive the 2010 AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award. Elaine Lawless seconded the motion, which passed, ten votes to none, with two conflict-of-interest abstentions (Ray Cashman and Marsha MacDowell).**

Tim Lloyd then presented a petition from the membership requesting Board approval for the creation of a Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies Section of AFS. **Marilyn White moved that the Board approve the petition for the creation of a Socialist and Post-Socialist Area Studies Section of AFS. Elaine Lawless seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board then went into executive session at 2:15 to discuss the proposed new contract for the Executive Director. Tim Lloyd and Lorraine Cashman left the room for this session, and the recorder was turned off. The executive session ended at 4:00, and there was a break in the meeting until 4:10. Lloyd and Cashman rejoined the meeting, and the recorder was turned back on.

Tim Lloyd then discussed his proposed set of priorities and budget for the Society for fiscal year 2011, which had been distributed to the Board before the meeting. **Elaine Lawless moved that the Board approve the proposed**

**priorities and budget for FY 2011 as presented. Riki Saltzman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The meeting was suspended at 4:45 pm, to resume the next day.

Kurt Dewhurst called the meeting back to order on Saturday, April 17, at 9:50 am in Room 320 of the Mershon Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, Ohio. Members present: Ray Cashman, Tim Evans, Jason Baird Jackson, Past President Elaine Lawless, Carl Lindahl, Marsha MacDowell, Riki Saltzman, Amy Shuman, Amy Skillman, Bill Westerman, and Marilyn White. Members absent: none. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd and Associate Director Lorraine Cashman were also present.

Kurt Dewhurst and Tim Lloyd introduced the afternoon's first discussion topic—cultural diversity—and AFS Cultural Diversity Task Force chair Marilyn White provided a summary history of the Task Force's responsibilities and accomplishments since 1992.

In the course of Board discussion, the following ideas and suggestions were noted:

We might survey past Davis and Hurston award recipients about their continued participation in the Society and field, or request that Davis recipients write a report outlining this.

We might focus our diversity attentions on undergraduate students, since it is from this group that future professionals will come. Community scholars could also be given priority.

We need to keep in mind the importance of sustained support, internships, undergraduate and graduate minors, ethnographic study and practice, and student conferences as possible means of support and mentoring.

The meeting paused briefly from 11:00 to 11:26.

Internship opportunities are key, but Society coordination and financial assistance will be necessary for them to have a successful long-term impact.

We should also not measure our success exclusively by the numbers of people who enter our field. Folklore students who go out into the world in other fields but remain influenced by the field can be allies and supporters.

AFS might offer "certified" ethnographic training, leading to a certificate as a tangible outcome of community-based ethnographic training

Community scholars and students are different: we reach out to community scholars, but we bring students into the field.

The Highlander School might serve as a model of a partnering arrangement for summer folklore and community leadership institutes.

It was agreed that the Board would continue discussion of the topic at its April 2011 meeting (since the time for Board gatherings in Nashville this October will be so short), and that the staff would work with Marilyn on ways to frame and structure that discussion.

The meeting paused briefly from 1:00 to 1:35.

Tim Lloyd then introduced the topic of an AFS-sponsored data-gathering project among folklore centers, departments, and programs. Jason Jackson noted the importance of such a database effort, especially across the field as a whole, as well as the need for criteria for program review and evaluation; there are two different audiences—administrators and students—for the data. Without these sorts of measures our field will be at risk.

After discussion, it was agreed that Tim Lloyd would work with Ray Cashman, Tim Evans, Jason Jackson, and Amy Shuman to pursue this project.

Under the heading of new business, Carl Lindahl described the present status of the Surviving Katrina and Rita in Houston project, and of efforts underway to build a similar initiative in response to the Haitian earthquakes. **Amy Skillman moved that the Society formally endorse this initiative. Amy Shuman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Bill Westerman asked about sites under consideration for future annual meetings. Tim Lloyd replied that the Society is investigating Providence, Rhode Island, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, as potential sites for the 2013 and 2014 meetings.

Jason Jackson mentioned the Indiana University "Themester" project and its impact on the 2011 annual meeting in Bloomington, as well as experiments in short-format annual meeting presentations (on the "pecha kucha" model) that will be tested in Nashville in 2010 and Bloomington in 2011.

Marsha MacDowell described the Oral History in a Digital Age project, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, in which AFS is participating.

Bill Westerman raised questions about the Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World project being undertaken by a consortium of university presses led by the University of Illinois Press. The consortium has not provided initial staff readers' comments to those submitting manuscripts to this project, thereby lessening the value of the effort for the field as a whole. Kurt Dewhurst and Tim Lloyd agreed to send a letter on this matter to University of Illinois Press project coordinator Catapano and Press director Willis Regier, and to follow up with them after sending the letter.

**Amy Skillman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Riki Saltzman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:38.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Lloyd  
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

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C. Kurt Dewhurst  
President

Date